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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/477,331	01/04/2000	GORDON ARNOLD	52817.000087	9092

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EXAMINER

HU, JINSONG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/477,331

Applicant(s)

ARNOLD ET AL.

Examiner

Jinsong Hu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-47 are presented for examination. Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10-13, 18-22 and 25-28 have been amended. Claims 29-47 are newly added claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-5, 7-15 and 17-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bulfer et al. (US 6,175,858).
4. As per claims 1, 7-8 and 29-30, Bulfer teaches the invention as claimed including a method of managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts [col. 1, lines 6-8] the method comprising:
providing an account database [14, 16, Fig. 1] associated with a server [12, Fig. 1], wherein the account database stores at least one of passwords and user IDs corresponding to the plurality of individual messaging accounts [col. 2, lines 18-35];

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receiving an access request to access selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts are determined based on information associated with a user [col. 1, lines 50-55];

authorizing access to the server based on authorization information associated with the user [col. 3, lines 3-11];

accessing the account database to retrieve at least one of the passwords and the user IDs corresponding to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts [col. 2, lines 32-35];

accessing the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing secret information to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the secret information includes at least one of the passwords and the user IDs, and wherein the secret information is predefined for each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts [col. 2, lines 32-43; col. 3, lines 55];
and

transmitting a set of access requests to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts [110, 120, Fig. 2; col. 2, lines 44-47; col. 3, lines 39-42 & 56-63;].

5. As per claims 2 and 3, Bulfer teaches the steps of accepting a set of replied from different messaging accounts, creating a consolidated message list for the pending messages in those messaging accounts, transmitting and presenting the consolidated

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message list to a user, wherein the messaging list indicate from which messaging account the messages retrieved [col. 2, lines 44-51 & 59-64; col. 3, lines 37-55].

6. As per claim 4, Bulfer teaches the server comprises a proxy server [col. 2, lines 13-17].

7. As per claim 5, Bulfer the individual accounts have assignable network address [col. 2, lines 32-35].

8. As per claims 9-15, 17 and 31-32, since they are system claims of claims 1-4, 7-8, and 29-30, they are rejected under the same basis as claims 1-4, 7-8, and 29-30 above.

9. As per claims 18-24 and 33-34, since they are structure claims of claims 1-4, 7-8, and 29-30, they are rejected under the same basis as claims 1-4, 7-8, and 29-30 above.

10. As per claims 25-27 and 35-36, since they are computer program claims of claims 1-3 and 29-30, they are rejected under the same basis as claims 1-3 and 29-30 above.

11. As per claims 28 and 37, Bulfer teaches the invention as claimed including a system for enabling a user to manage a plurality of messages stored in two or more

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individual accounts associated with different service provider [col. 1, lines 6-8], the system comprising:

two or more individual messaging accounts associated with different service providers [22, 24, 26, 28, 30, Fig. 1];

an interface module [12, Fig. 1] for determining a user and matching the user to the corresponding two or more individual messaging accounts [col. 2, lines 18-25; col. 3, lines 3-11];

an authorization module [12, Fig.1] for accessing each of the two or more individual messaging accounts associated with the user, wherein the authorization module references the storage module and matches the at least one of the user ID and password with the corresponding two or more individual messaging accounts associated with the user, and wherein the authorization module provides each of the two or more individual messaging accounts with secret information, wherein the secret information includes at least one of the user ID and the password, and wherein the secret information is predefined for each of the two or more messaging accounts [col. 2, lines 18-35; col. 4, lines 19-23].

12. As per claims 38-39 and 42, Bulfer teaches the invention including a method of managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts using a proxy server, the method comprising:

providing an account database for storing at least one of passwords and user IDs corresponding to the plurality of individual messaging accounts [col. 2, lines 34-35];

accepting a user access request for at least a first individual messaging account and a second individual messaging account, wherein the user access request includes user identification information [col. 3, lines 3-11];

performing a first authorization based on the user identification information, accessing the account database to obtain at least one of a password and a user ID for at least the first individual messaging account and the second individual messaging account [col. 2, lines 25-35];

performing an individual messaging account authorization that includes providing at least one of a first user ID and a first password to the first individual messaging account and providing at least one of a second user ID and a second password to the second individual messaging account [120, Fig. 2]; and

transmitting a set of message access requests at least to the first individual messaging account and the second individual messaging account [130, Fig. 2; col. 3, lines 37-55].

13. As per claims 40 and 41, since they are method claims of 28 and 37, they are rejected for the same basis as claims 28 and 37 above.

14. As per claims 43-44 and 47, since they are system claims of claims 38-39 and 42, they are rejected for the same basis as claims 38-39 and 42 above.

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15. As per claims 45 and 46, since they are system claims of 28 and 37, they are rejected for the same basis as claims 28-37 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claims 6 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bulfer et al. (US 6,175,858) as applied to claims 1-5, 7-15 and 17-47 above.

18. As per claims 6 and 16, Bulfer teaches the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1. Bulfer does not specifically disclose whether the POP standard used in system in at least one step for retrieving messages. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize POP standard in Bulfer's system because POP standard is a well-known protocol in the art for allowing user retrieving electronic message on Internet without location restriction. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Bulfer's system with POP standard to improve the functionality of the system.

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Conclusion


19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jinsong Hu whose telephone number is (703) 306-5932. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A. Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jinsong Hu

September 28, 2004


JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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